

# LET'S DO BETTER



by MUNRO LEAF



# Let's Do Better



by **Munro Leaf**

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# When our ancestors lived







in dark,





dank caves



they

were

very

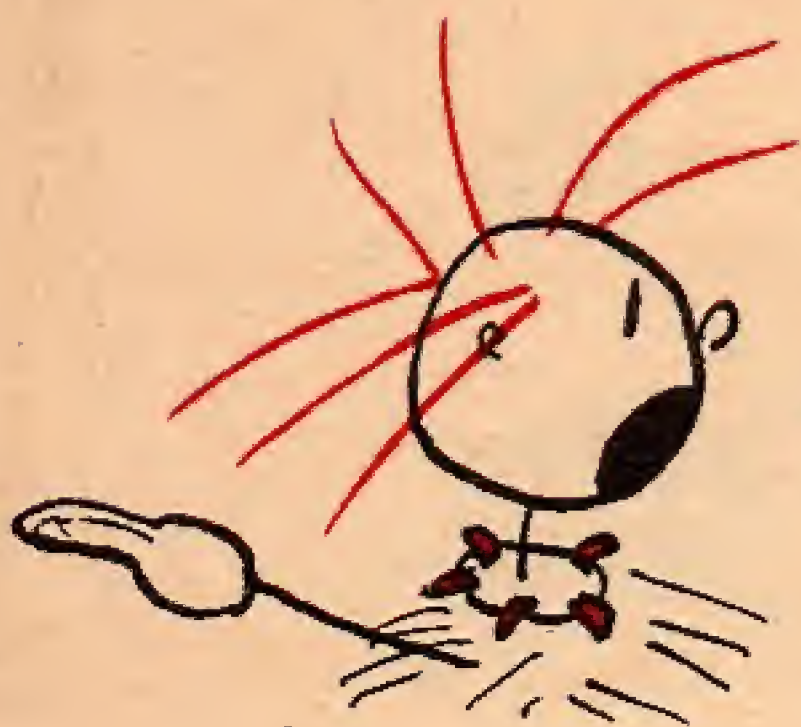
rough

with each other.









Everybody



was

scared.



If there wasn't enough food to go around, somebody starved.

And if there wasn't enough shelter or clothing to keep everybody warm, somebody froze or became sick and died.

So it was everybody for himself or herself just to stay alive.

The strong and the clever people either beat up the others or tricked them into being dead or out of the way.



Some wise people

decided that this was a very stupid  
way to go on living, always being  
scared of each other.





The very simple idea came

to them that

if some of them could get together

and work together

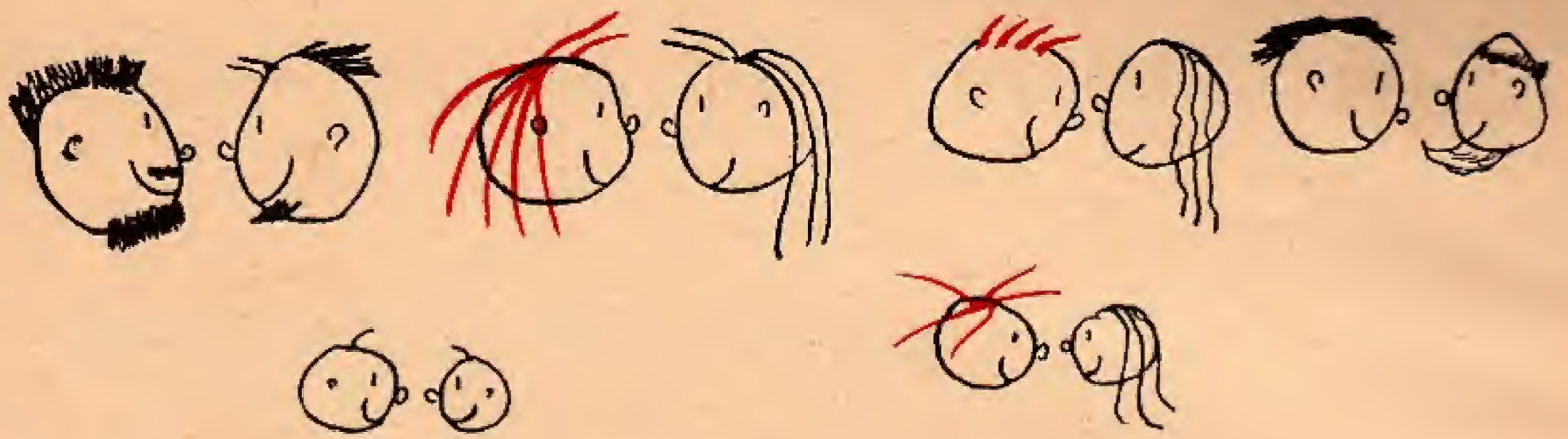
they could feed themselves, clothe

themselves

and share what shelter there

was or that could be built.





9 So they lived together as

tribes, gangs, groups

or anything



you want to call a lot of people

who live together,





which was a sensible





thing to do.



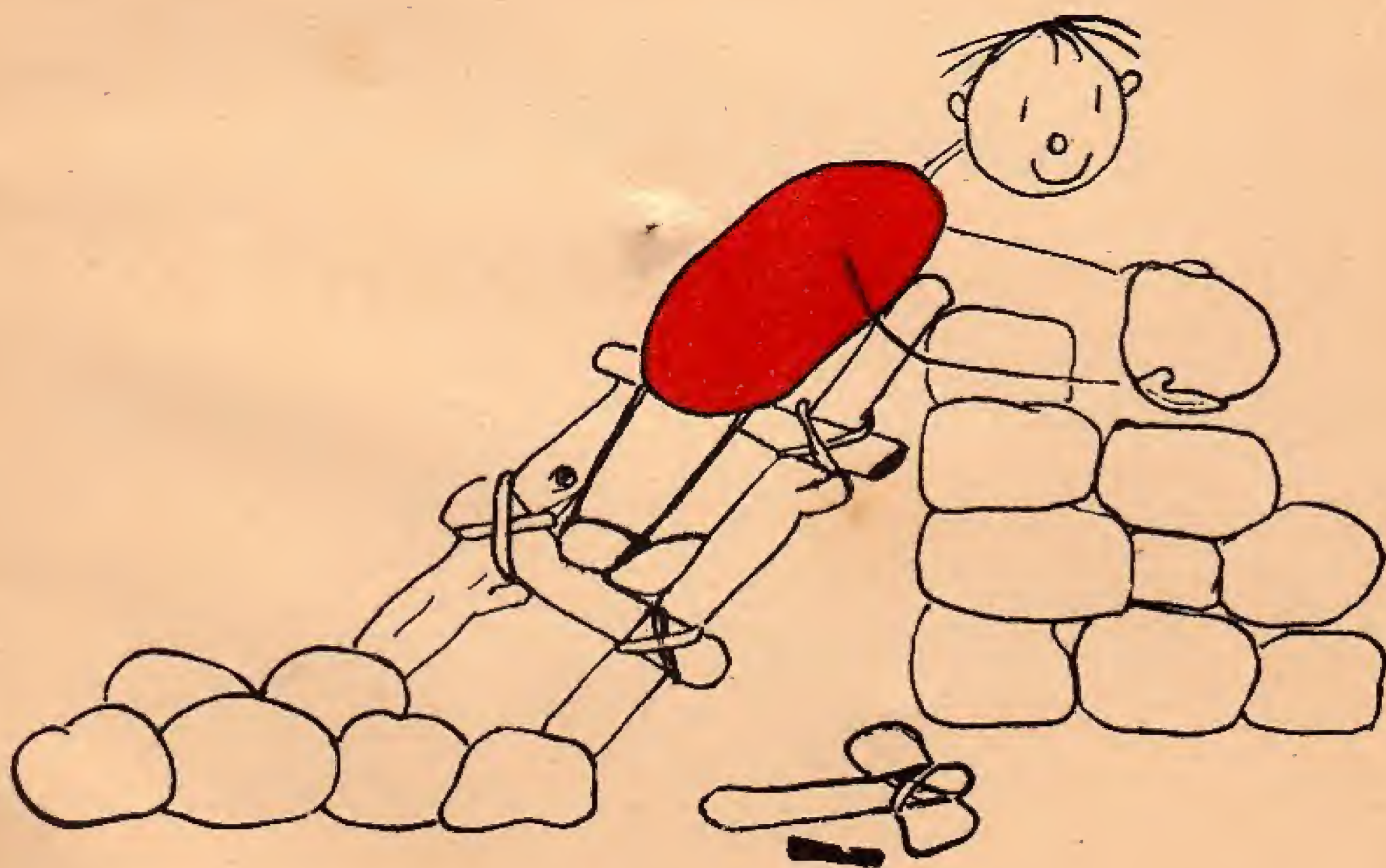


Naturally, some of them could do  
certain things better than others  
could.

One man might be a very good  
house builder,



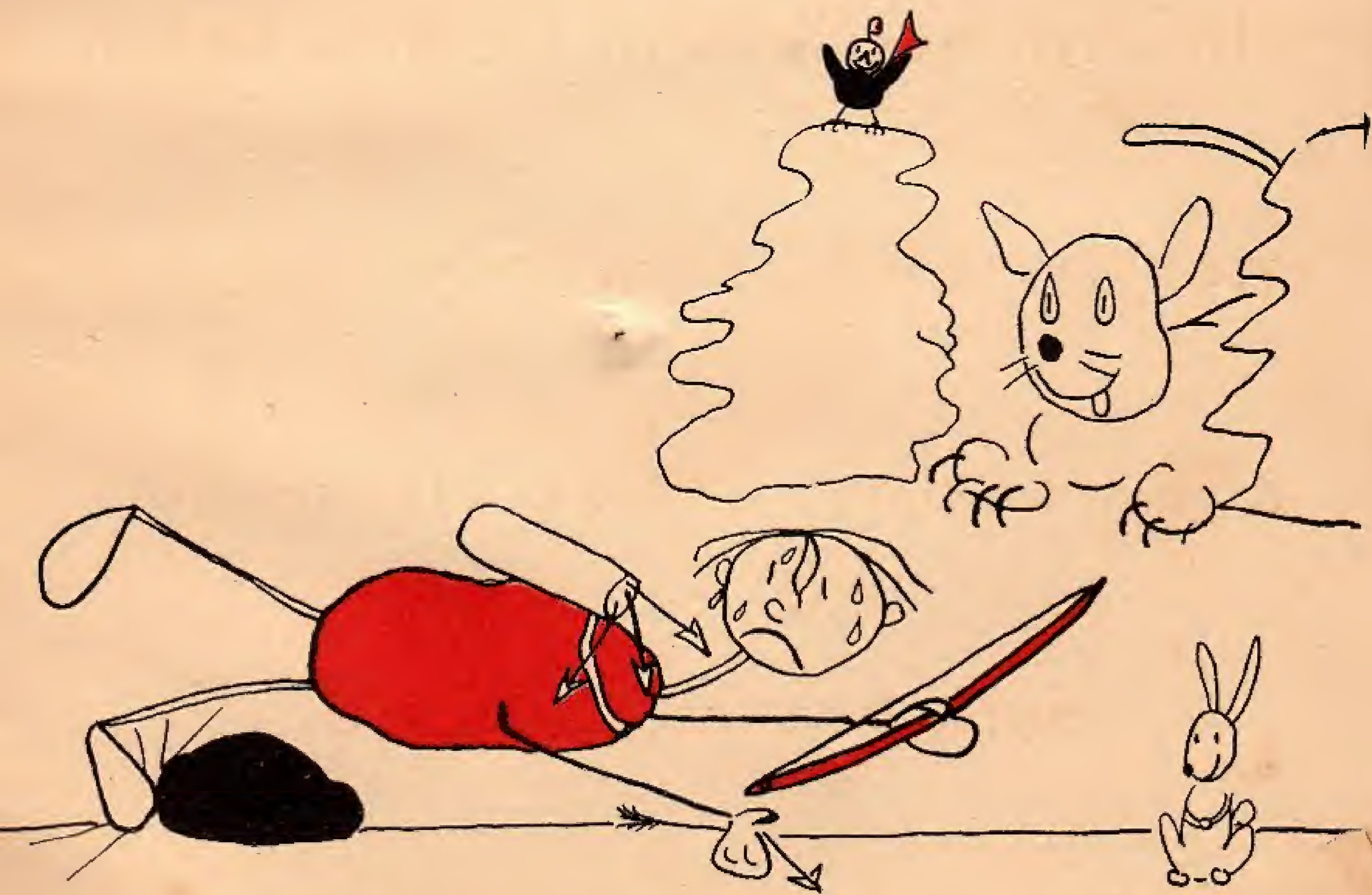
but he might be





the clumsiest, noisiest hunter in the tribe. The sensible thing to do with him was to let him build houses, while somebody else did the hunting. They all needed both houses and food.

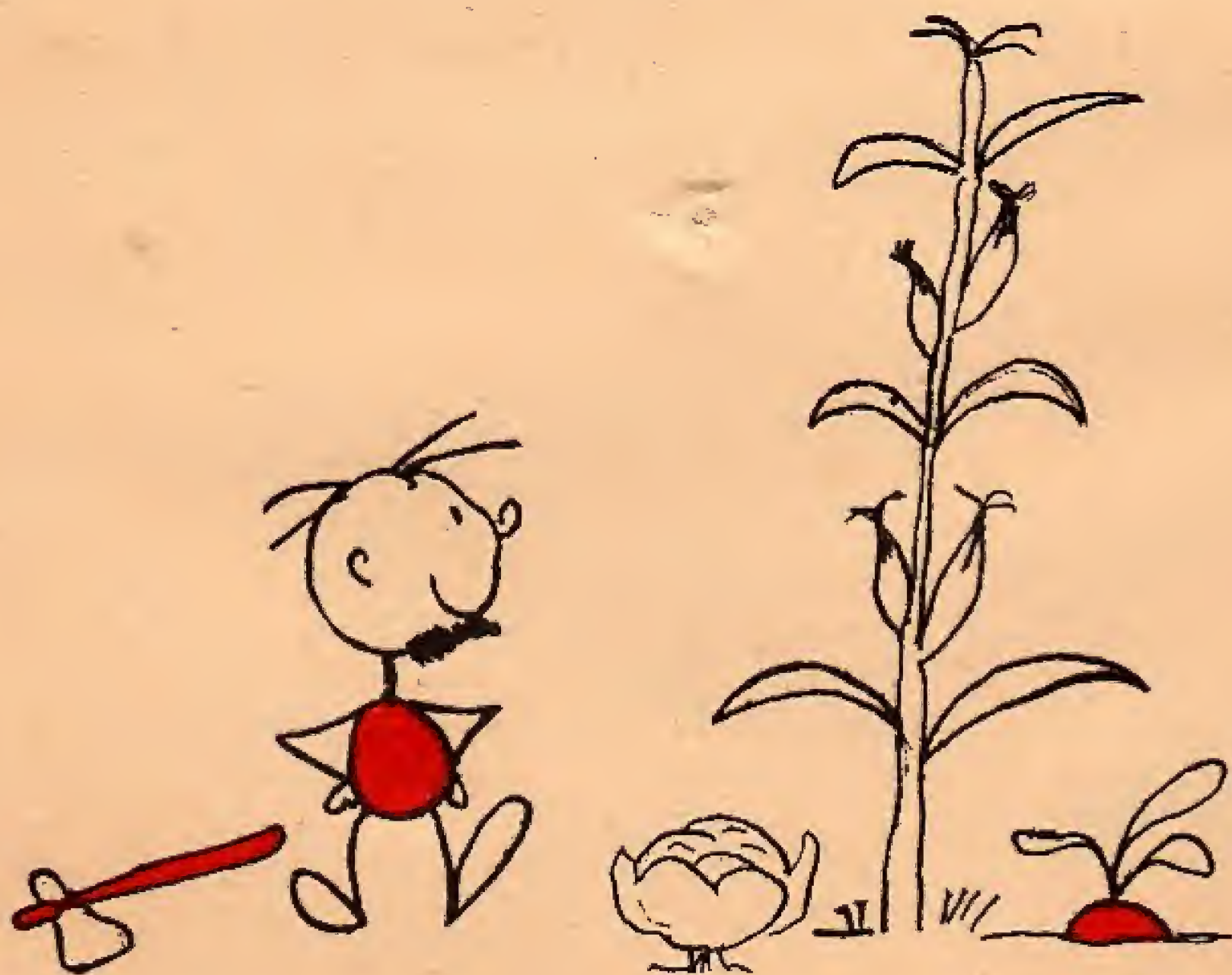




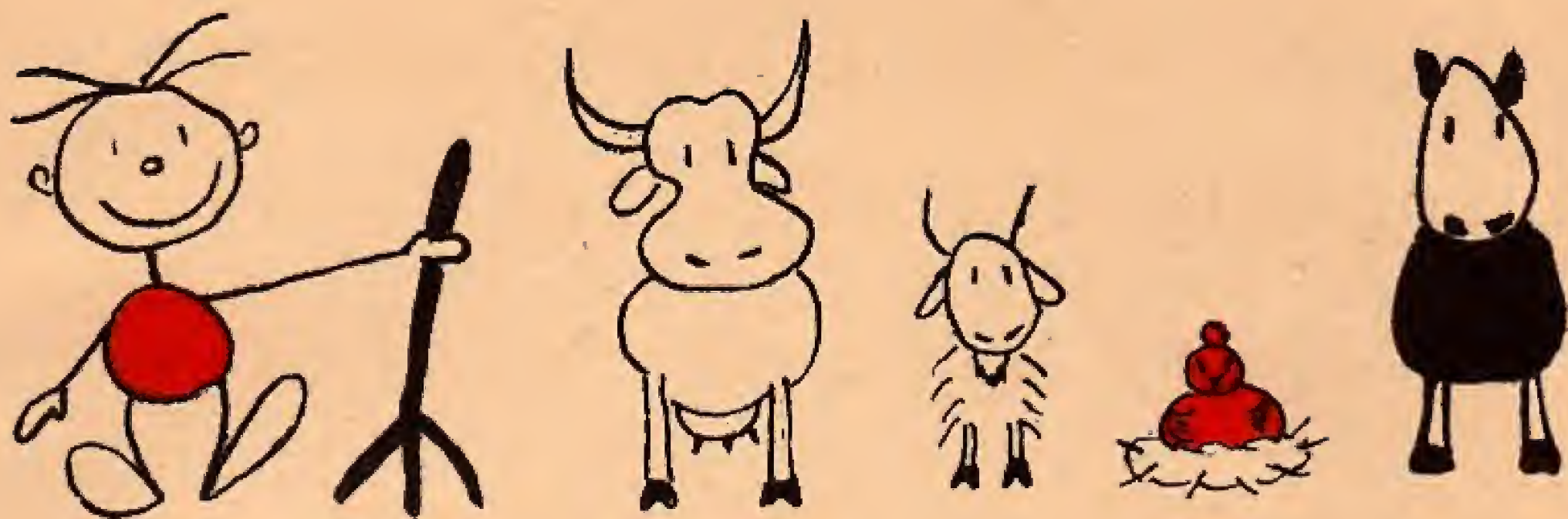


As the tribes grew bigger more  
people did different things.

Some were very good at  
making things to eat  
grow out of  
the ground,







or raising cows, goats, chickens  
or horses.

They became farmers.

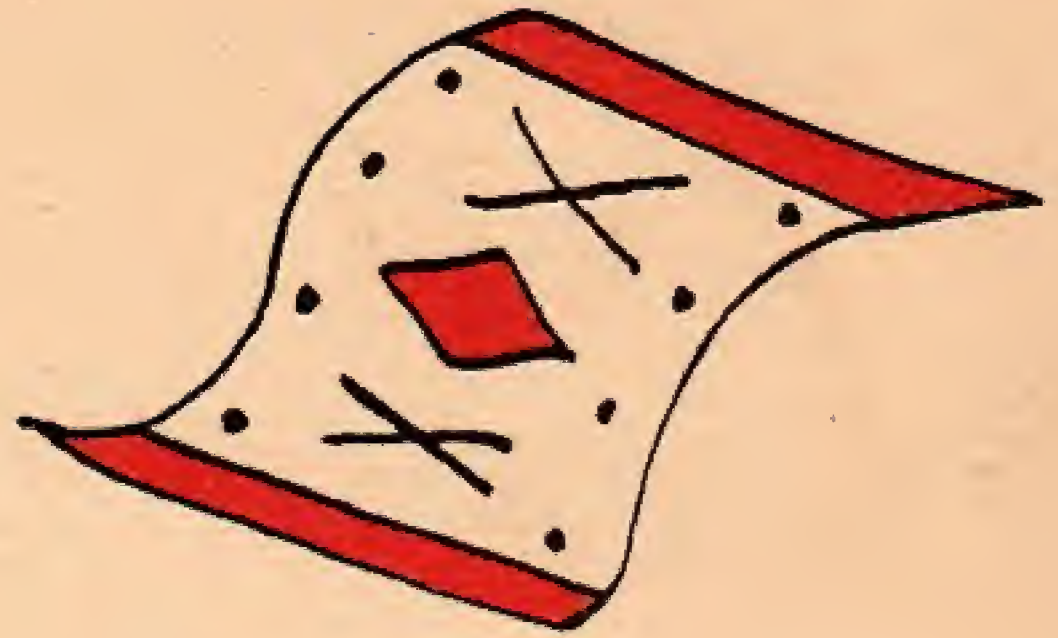




Some could make  
bows and arrows  
or  
pots and pans  
or







clothes  
and  
blankets—  
they became manufacturers.





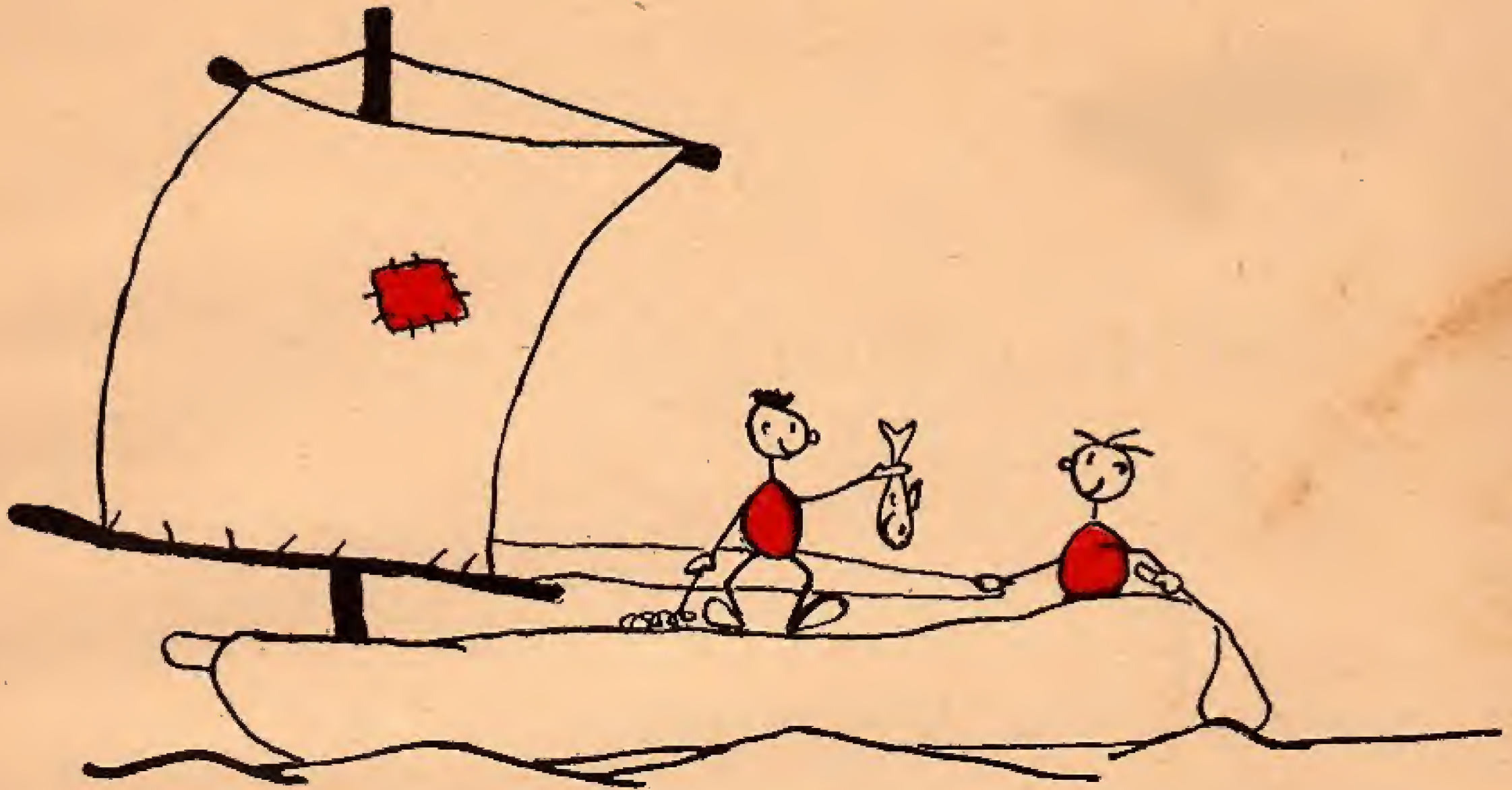
Others were good at

building boats

and sailing them.





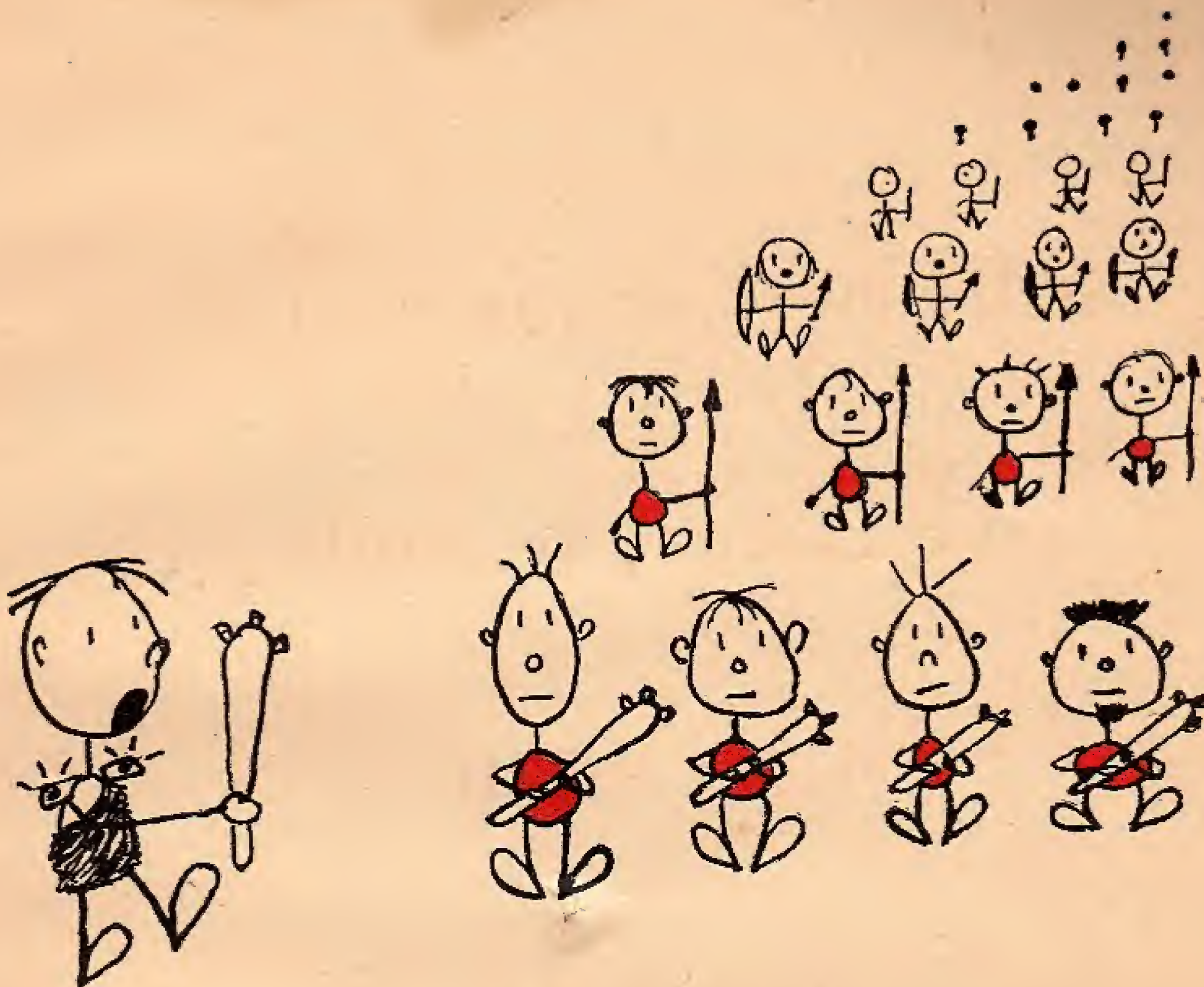


They became ship builders  
and sailors.



Still, most of the men of  
the tribe who could  
fight at all  
had to be  
soldiers.





The reason for that  
was just this:



There were always other tribes  
living somewhere not far away,



and if they didn't have as good  
food or shelter or clothing as others  
they would try to take them.

That always wound up in a fight.  
If the tribes were big enough, then  
the fights were big enough to be  
battles



and the whole mess was  
called a



**WAR**



In these wars—in any wars—somebody  
always got hurt.

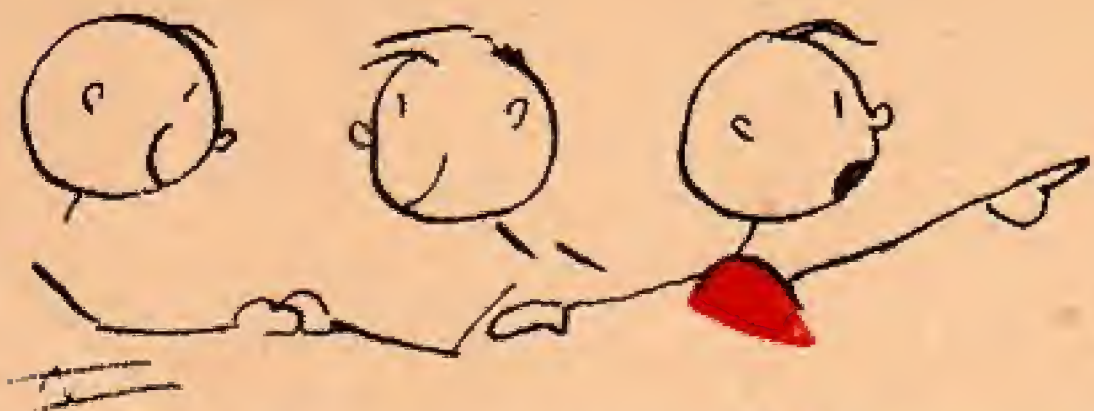
Some were killed, homes were smashed and  
the things that people had worked hard  
for were taken away from them. That  
made almost everybody unhappy.



No matter which side won or lost, there  
were always a lot of people on both sides  
who were made very miserable.







The worst of it was that if one tribe or gang or nation decided that war was foolish it didn't dare to go on living sensibly by just helping each other and trusting other tribes to do the same. Sooner or later another tribe would attack them and kill them. No matter how right they might be.



The sensible and the happy way of living  
just wouldn't work—unless everybody felt  
the same way about it. That is just as true  
today as it ever was in the days of our  
ancestors.





Now the people who have always had the  
most to do with how we live anywhere in  
the world have been the  
*Thinkers.*







These *Thinkers* can be divided into three  
different kinds and two of the three kinds  
can be good for us all.

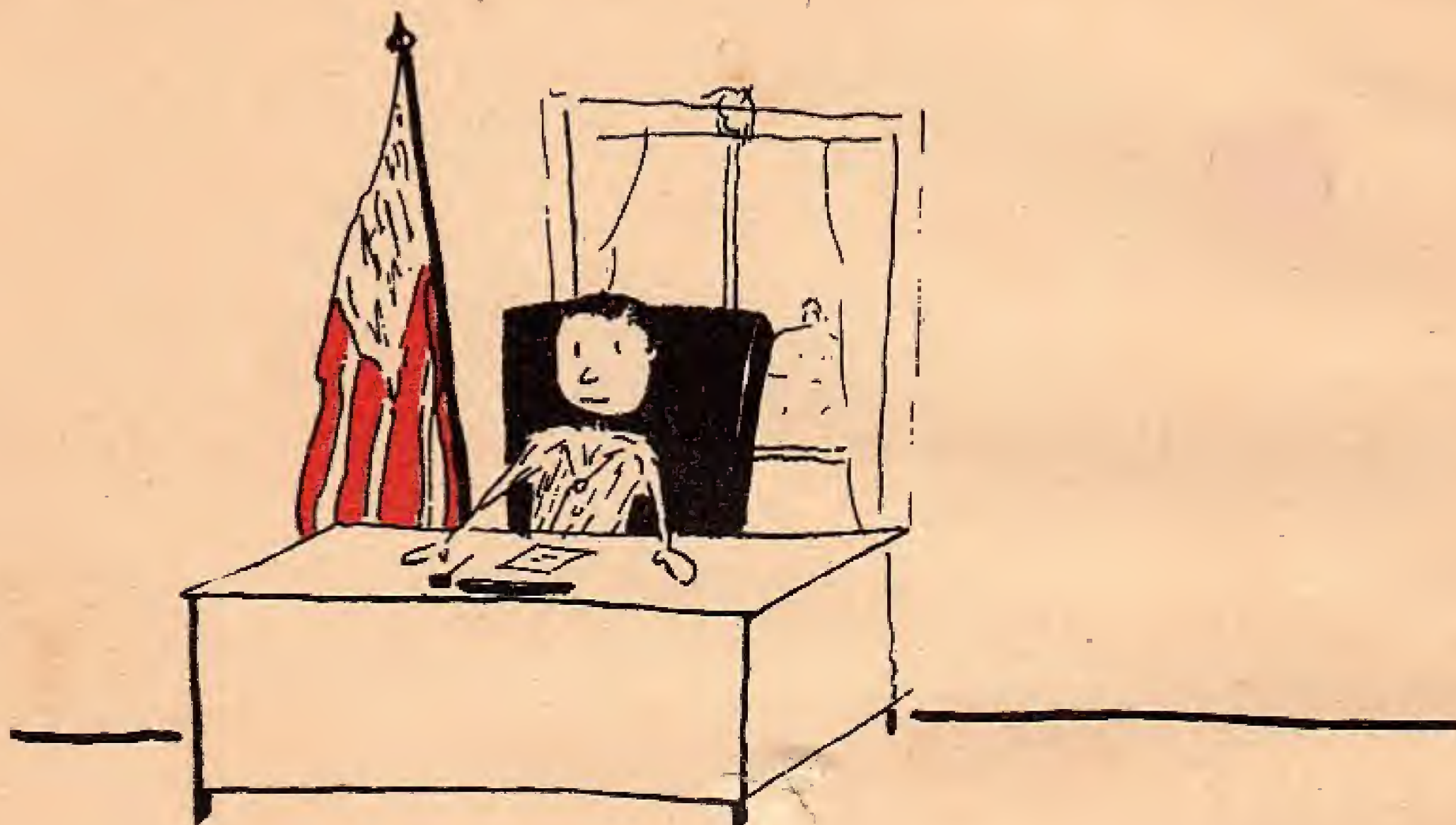
The third kind is always getting us into  
trouble.







The first kind of Thinker and probably the most important, is the Leader.



Leaders are strong people. Not always strong in their muscles, but strong in their minds and in their power to get other people to do things the way that the Leader thinks is best for them.



Good Leaders are always trying to think up ways for people to get along together better.

After all, rules and ways for getting along together are all that

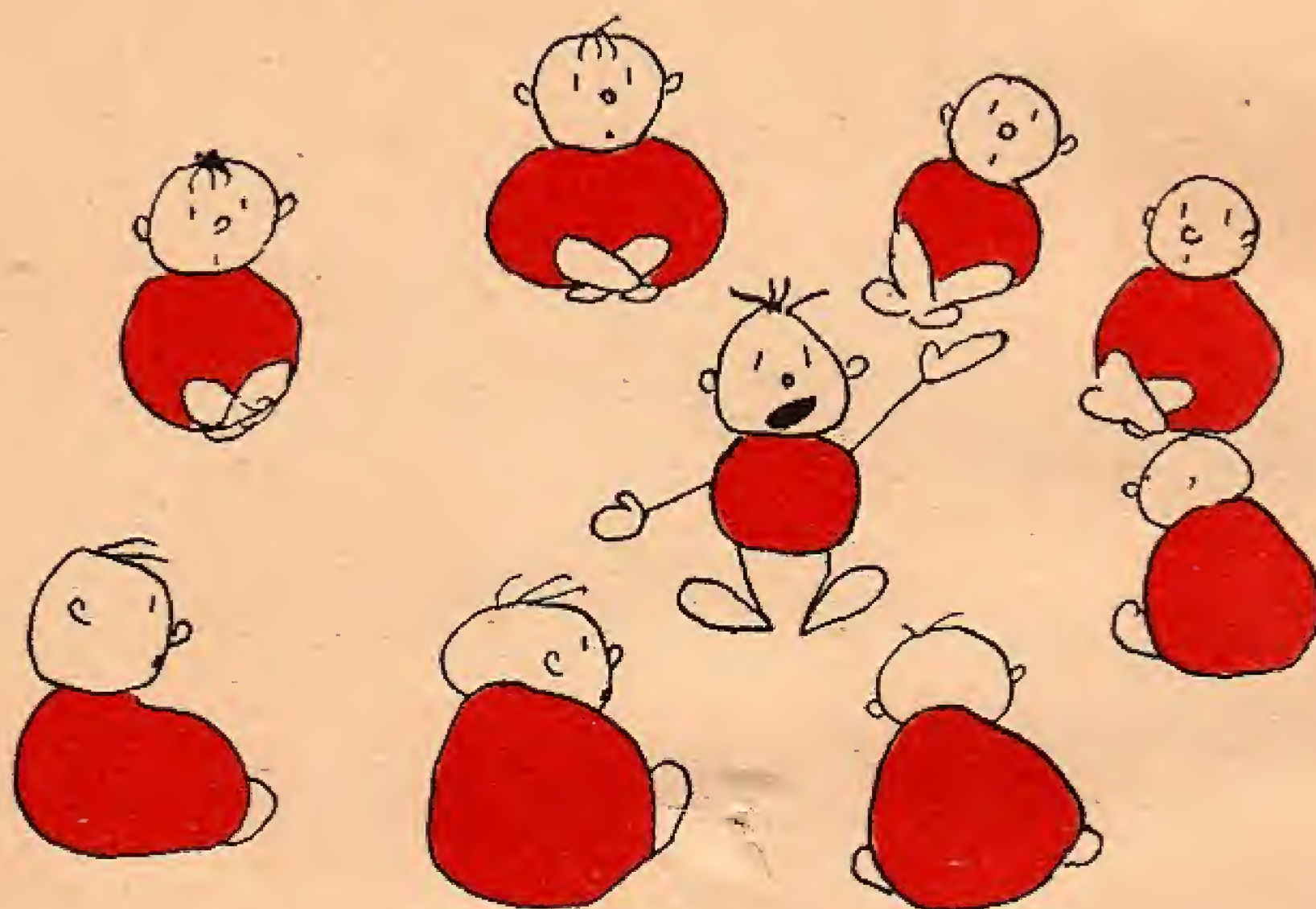
**GOVERNMENT**

really is.





Not all tribes picked their leaders the same way



and we still don't, now that we, the people of the world, are divided up into countries or nations.



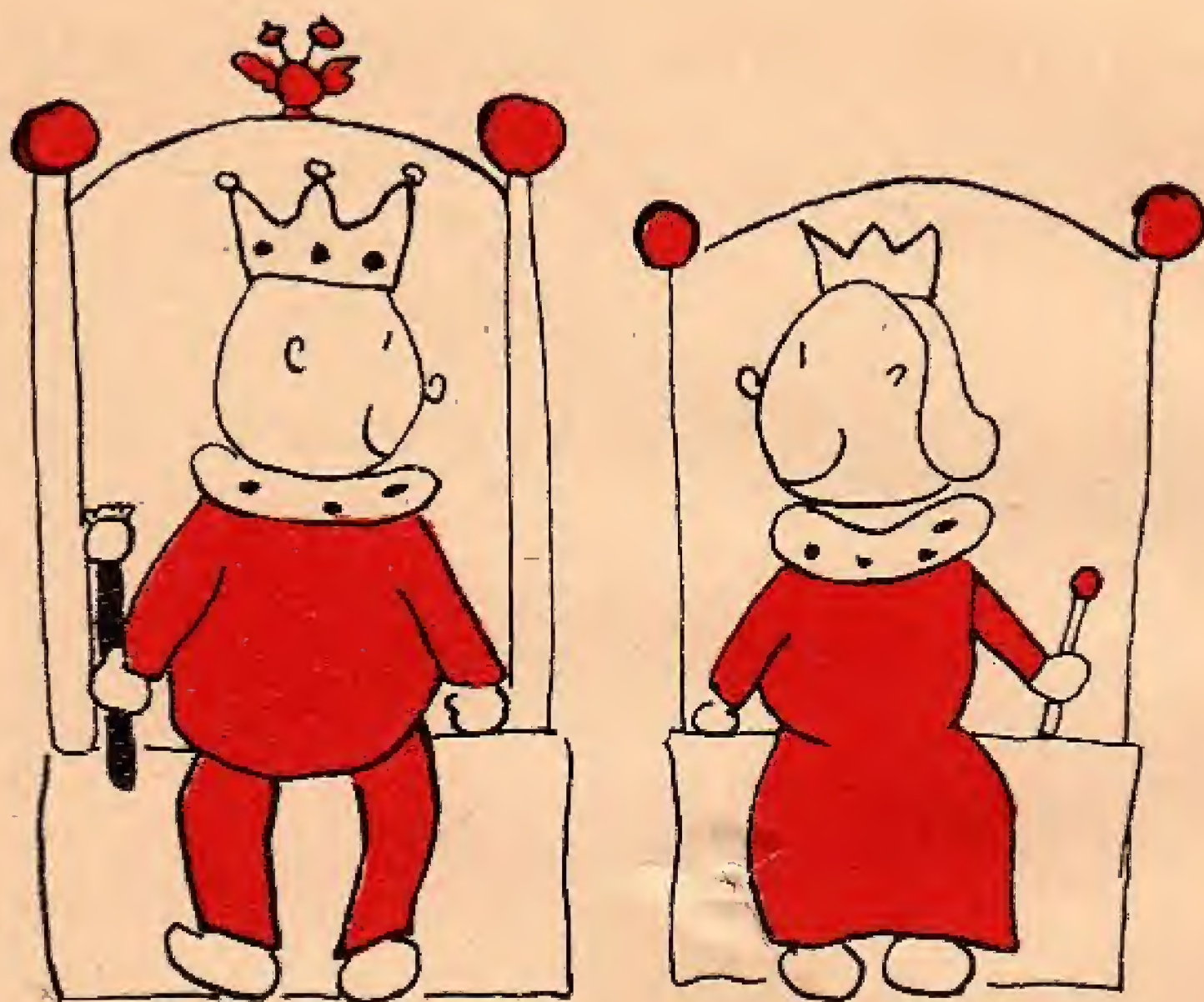
Some countries pick a leader by asking nearly everybody who he or she thinks should be the one. The one most people want is made leader.



That is very much the way we do it in this country, and we call that way, Democracy.



Some other nations do it differently.



They let members of just one family be the leaders and call them kings or queens.



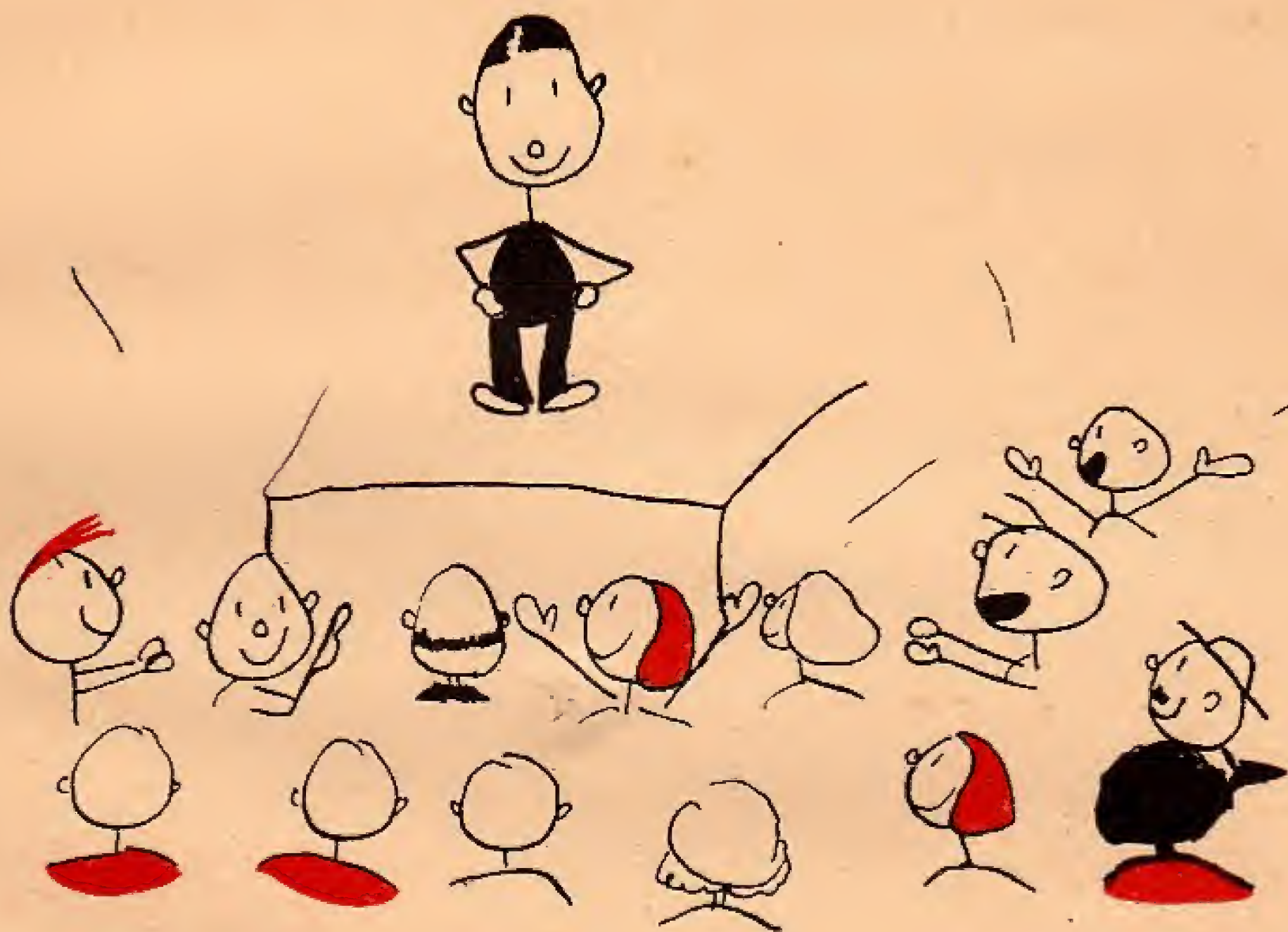
Some of those countries also let nearly everybody pick other leaders to help the king or queen do the governing or leading.





Still other countries let the strongest men lead them without doing any picking or choosing of them, or making them be members of any particular family. That can work out just as well as any other way if they happen to get good leaders, but it's just too bad if they don't.







There is no country in the world that can say their way of choosing Leaders is the only good way.



The thing that is important is that the Leaders be good ones, no matter how they are chosen.



Besides the leaders who govern us, the people who come next in making us a strong or a weak nation are the second kind of Thinkers.

These are the Makers and Doers.







They live in all countries and  
they are forever thinking up new





ways to make things and new  
ways to do things.





We call them

inventors, scientists,

engineers, doctors,



musicians, artists, writers,





farmers, merchants,



lawyers, workers,  
builders, bankers,



and hundreds of other

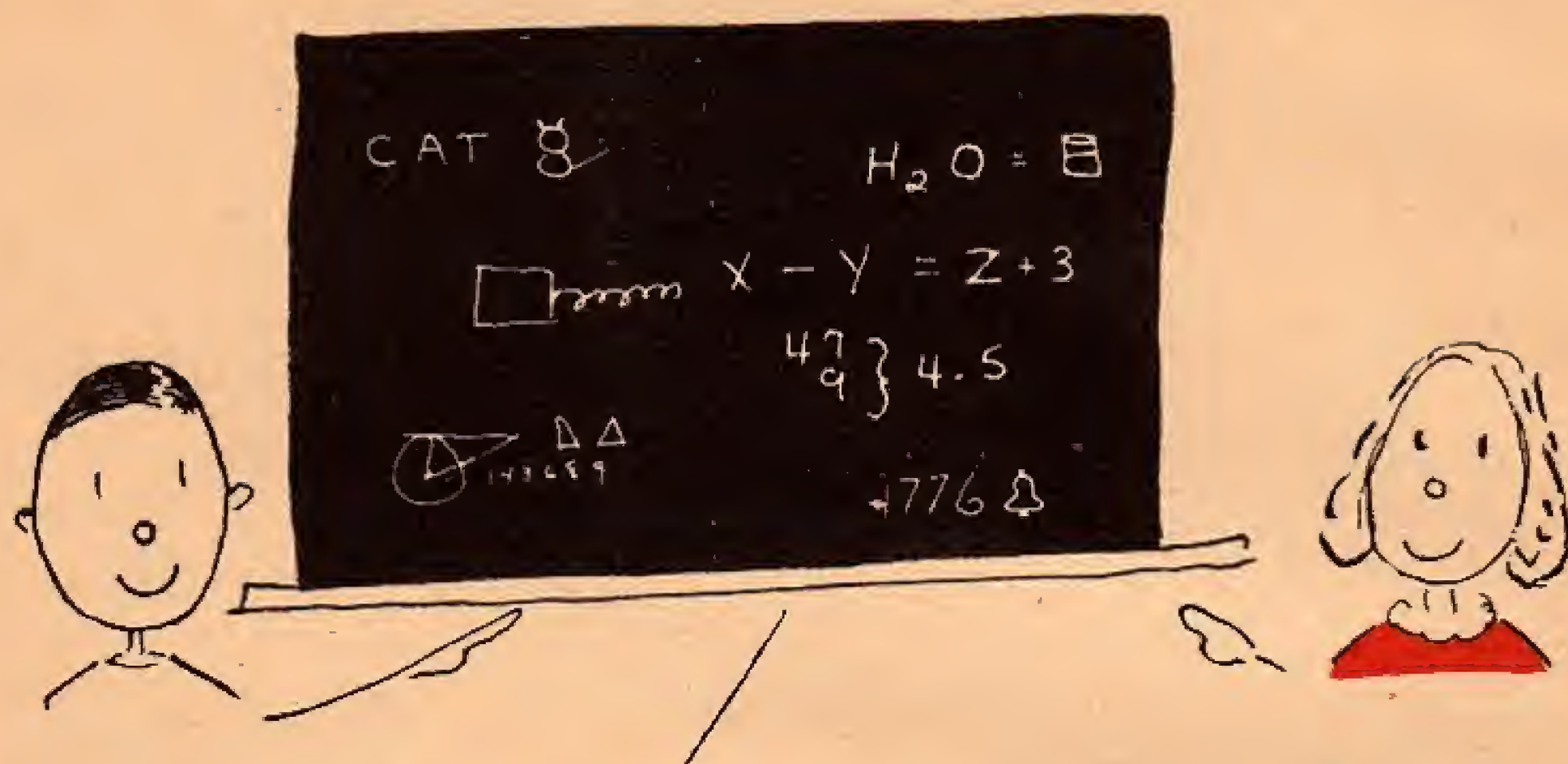
names, but no matter what we call them,  
they are the Makers and Doers who by



their  
thinking  
affect the  
way we  
all live.





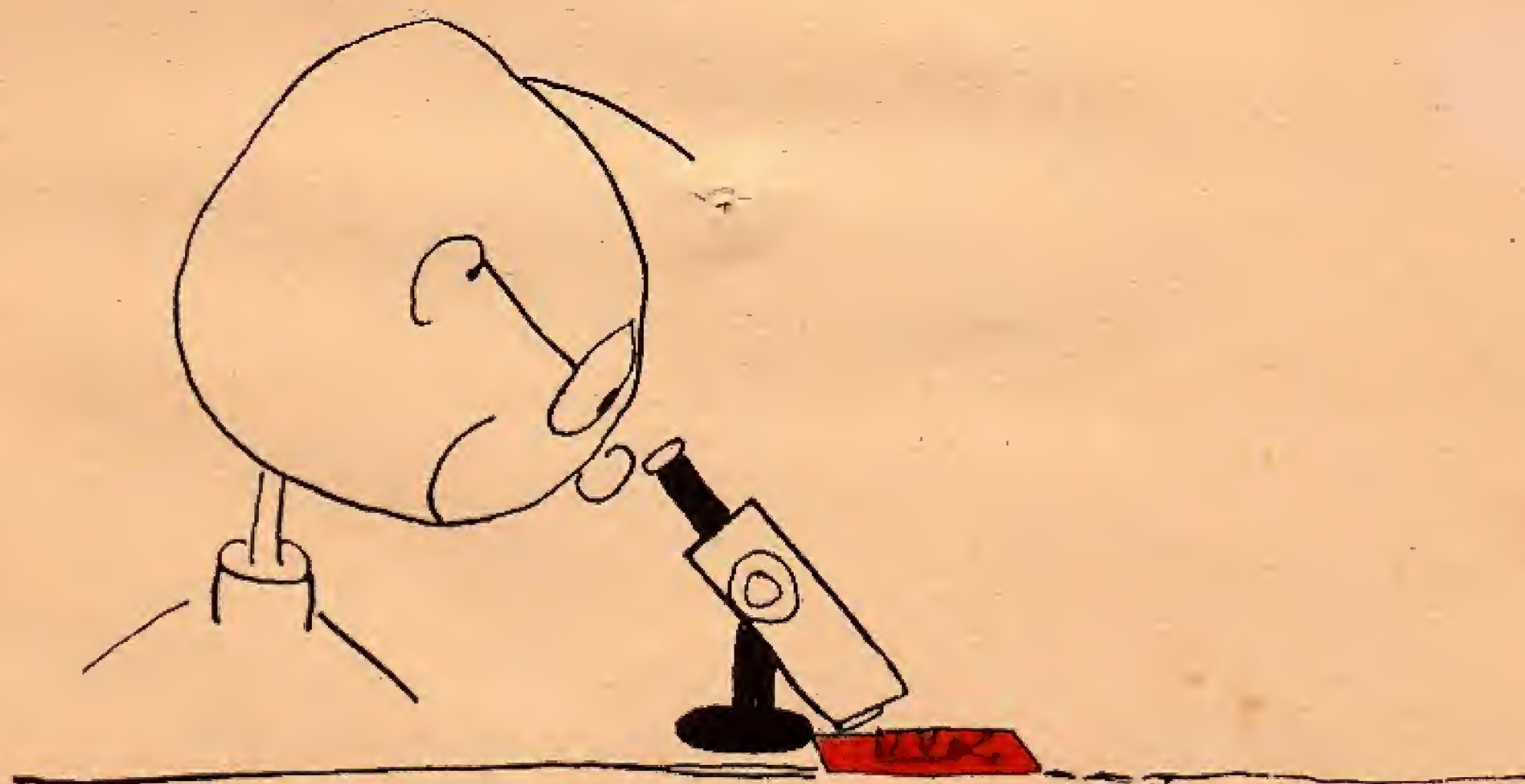


Among these Thinkers there is a kind of people we call Teachers.

These Teachers, many of them Makers and Doers themselves, pass on to others the ways they have learned to make and do things.



The Doctor who finds a new way to kill  
germs and keep people well is one Thinker  
we are glad to have in the world.





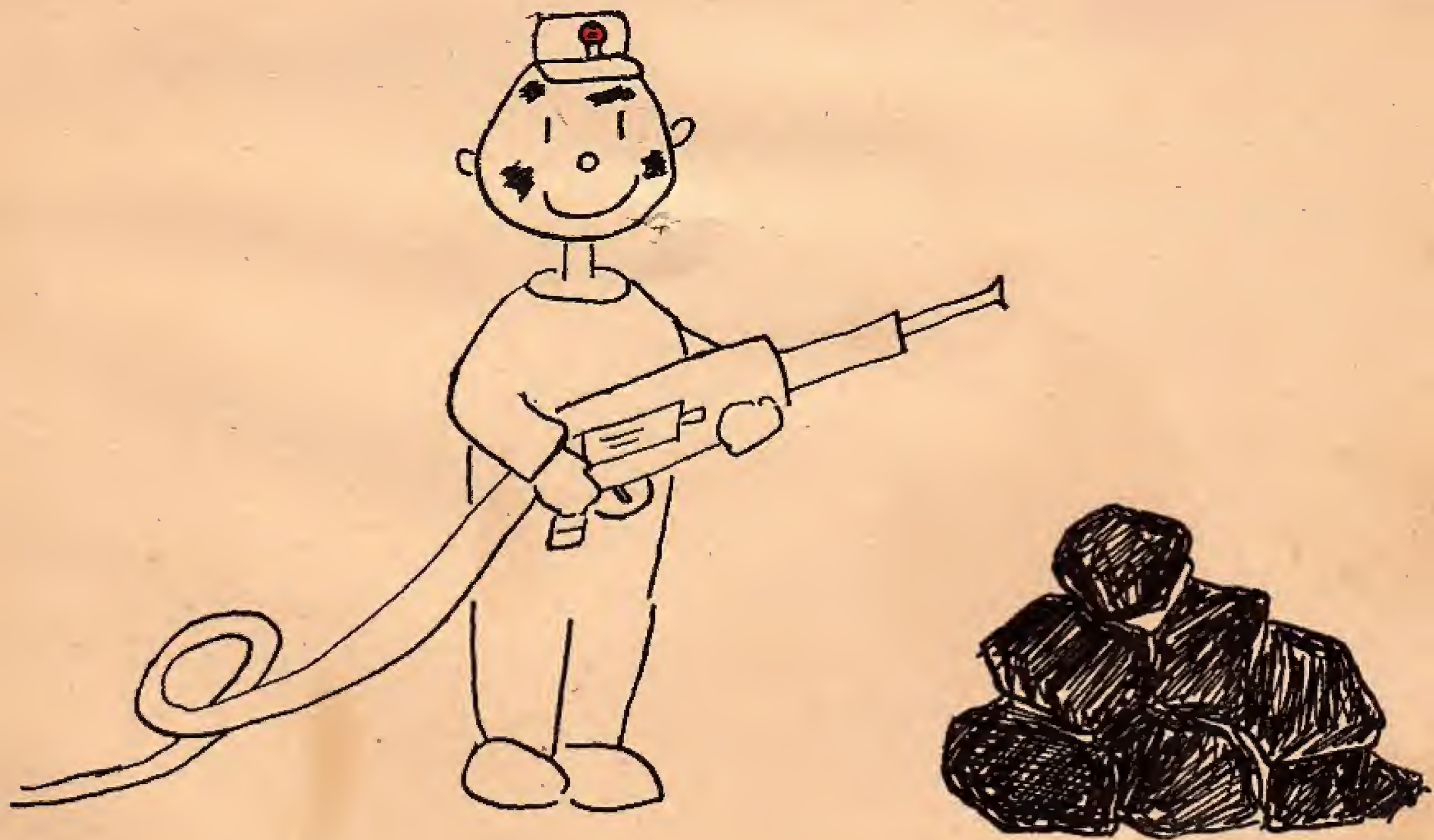
Those who find ways to make cows give  
more milk or hens to lay more eggs, or land  
to raise more corn, wheat and rice;





they are some of the ones who help us.

So are the Thinkers who find new ways to  
dig coal faster and easier,



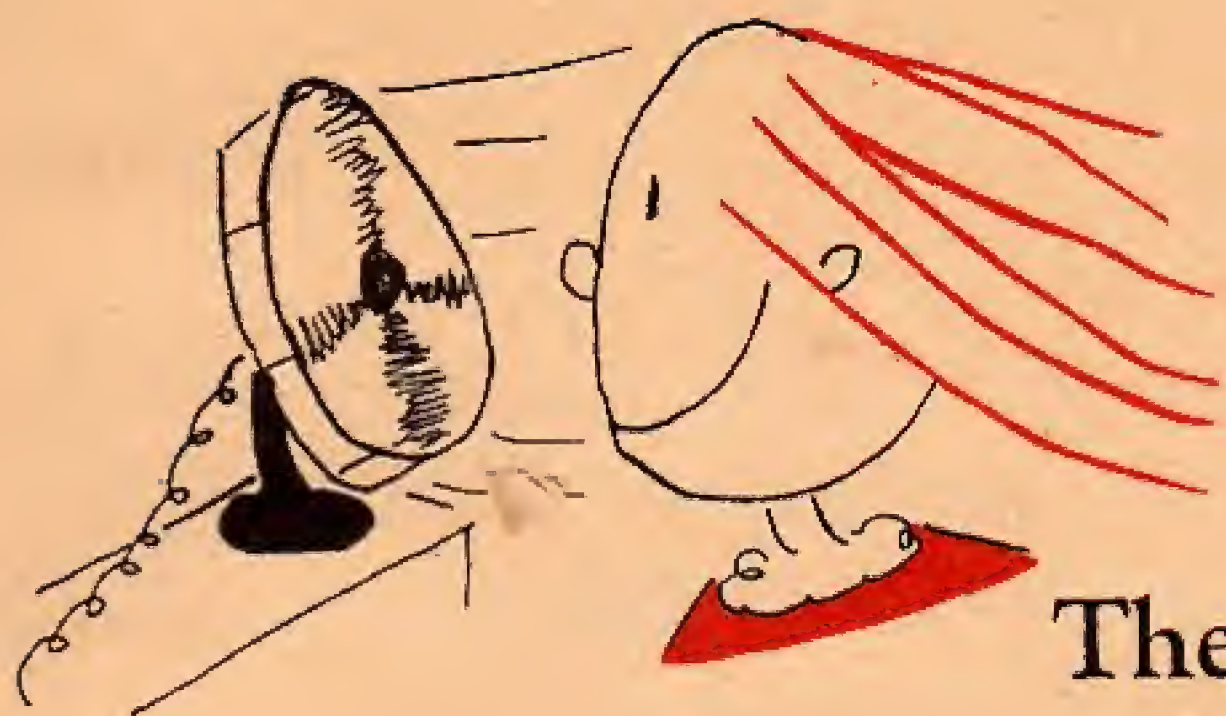


to find oil, to fly airplanes better and farther; to keep us cool when it's too hot, and warm when it's too cold.

People who think of things like this are the people who make big and little countries in the world great and strong, when those countries also have wise and good Leaders.







The more we have

of them in a country, and the more they  
teach the good ways to make and do  
things to many people, the better that  
country is to live in  
for everyone.





If this is so, then who are these other

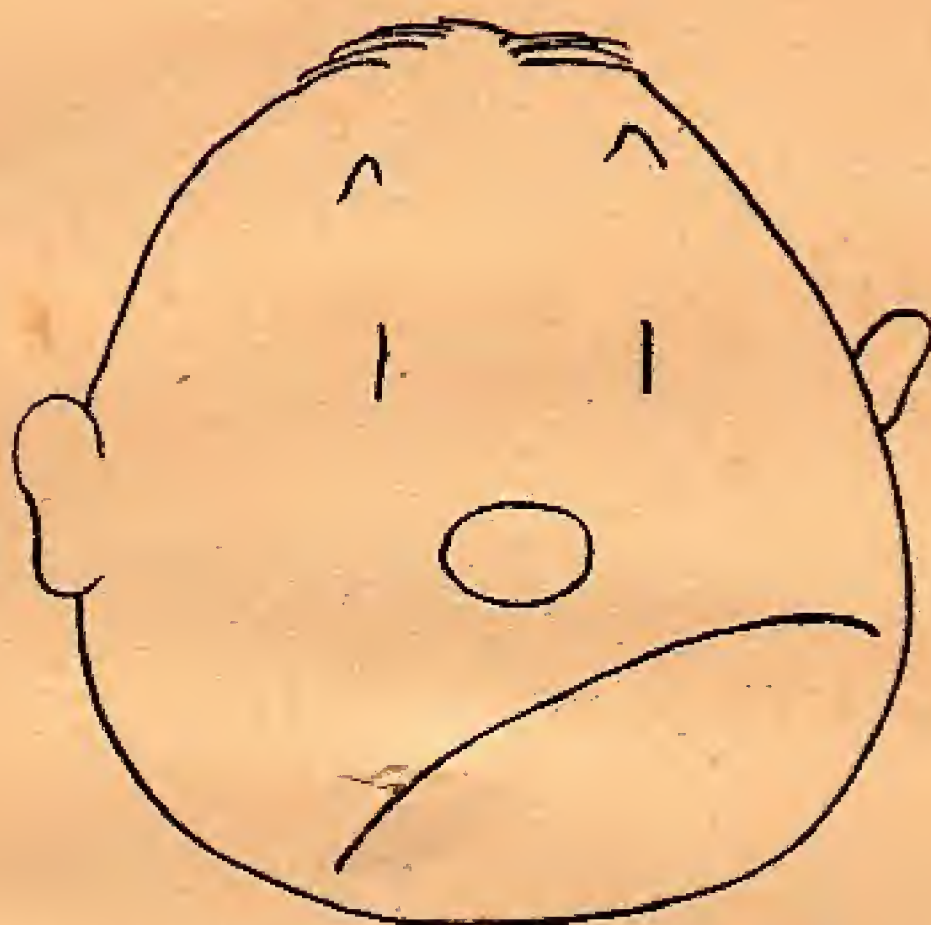
Thinkers that get us into trouble? What

is this third kind of Thinker that makes

such a mess of things for the rest of us?



?



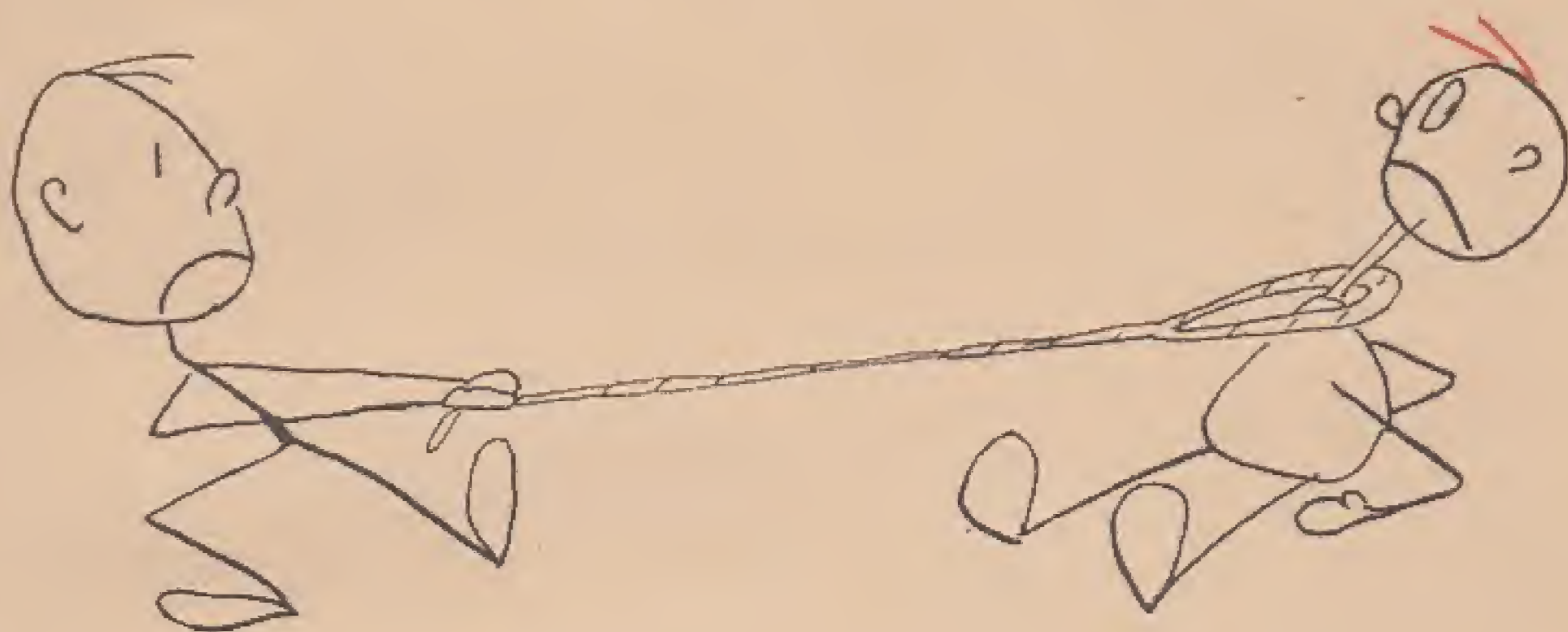


They are the

## Selfish Cheaters.

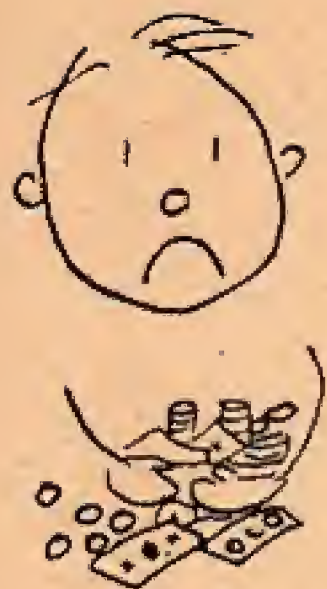
They are the persons who mess things up,  
who try to push and pull the people of the  
world around while they are thinking only  
of themselves.





Unfortunately they too live in every  
country.





Some are rich



and some are poor.



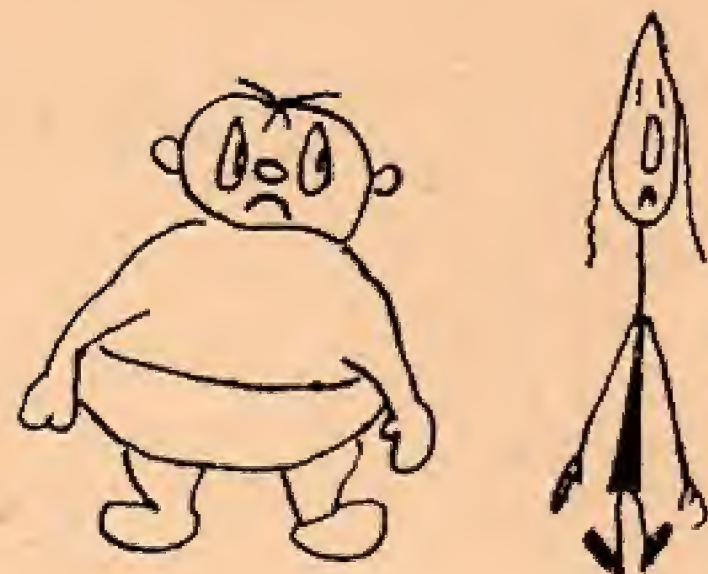
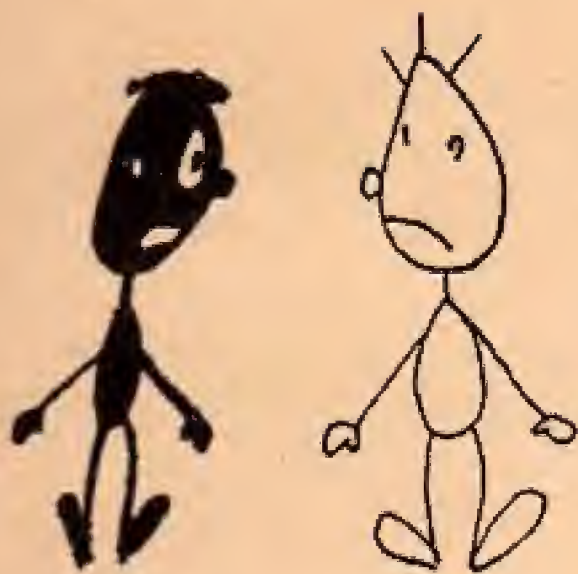
Some are strong  
and some are weak,

old, young,



tall, short,





dark, light, fat or skinny,  
clever or stupid.



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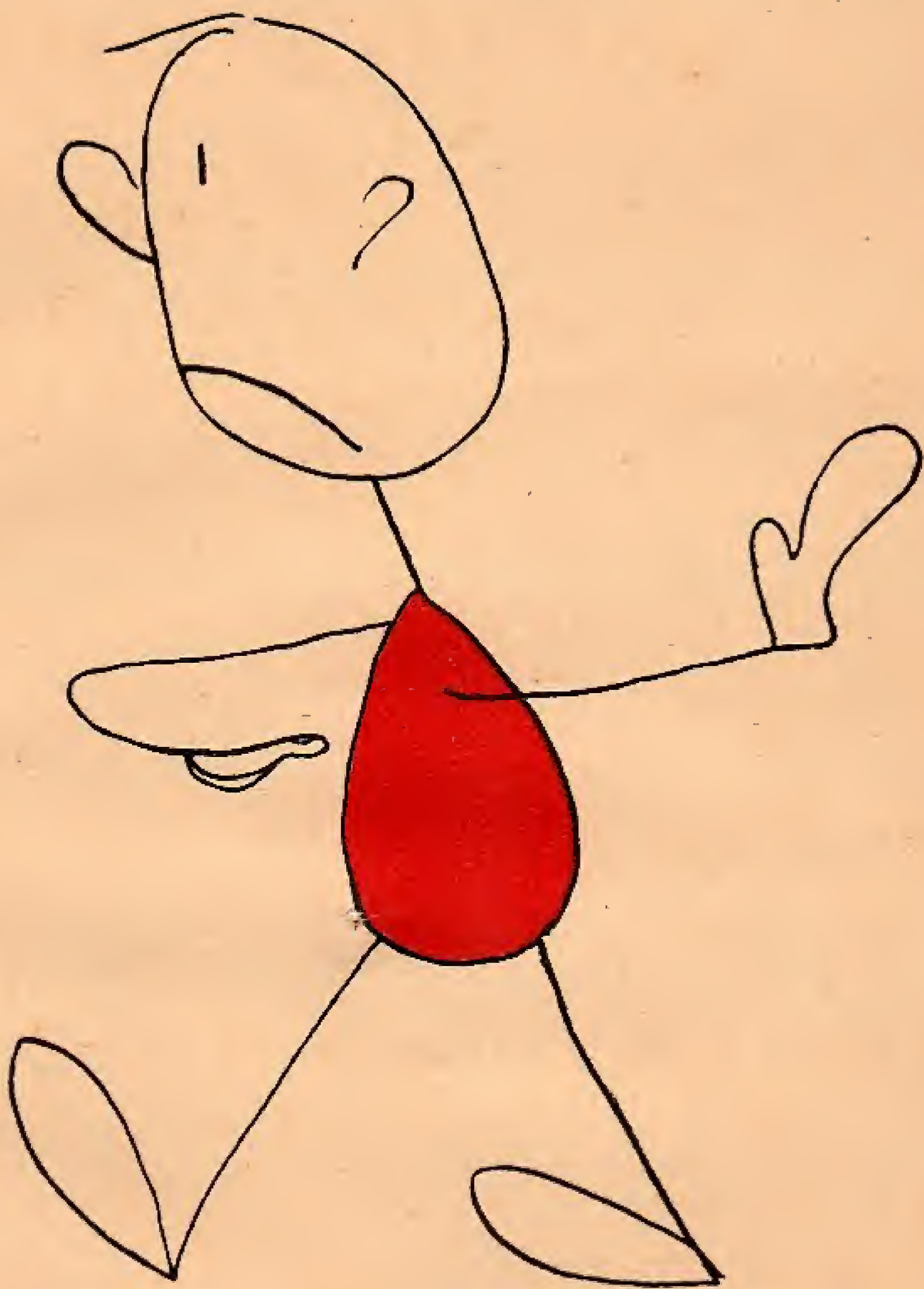
They often look like  
anybody else but what makes them bad  
for us and all the world is that more than  
anything else



## THEY ARE SELFISH

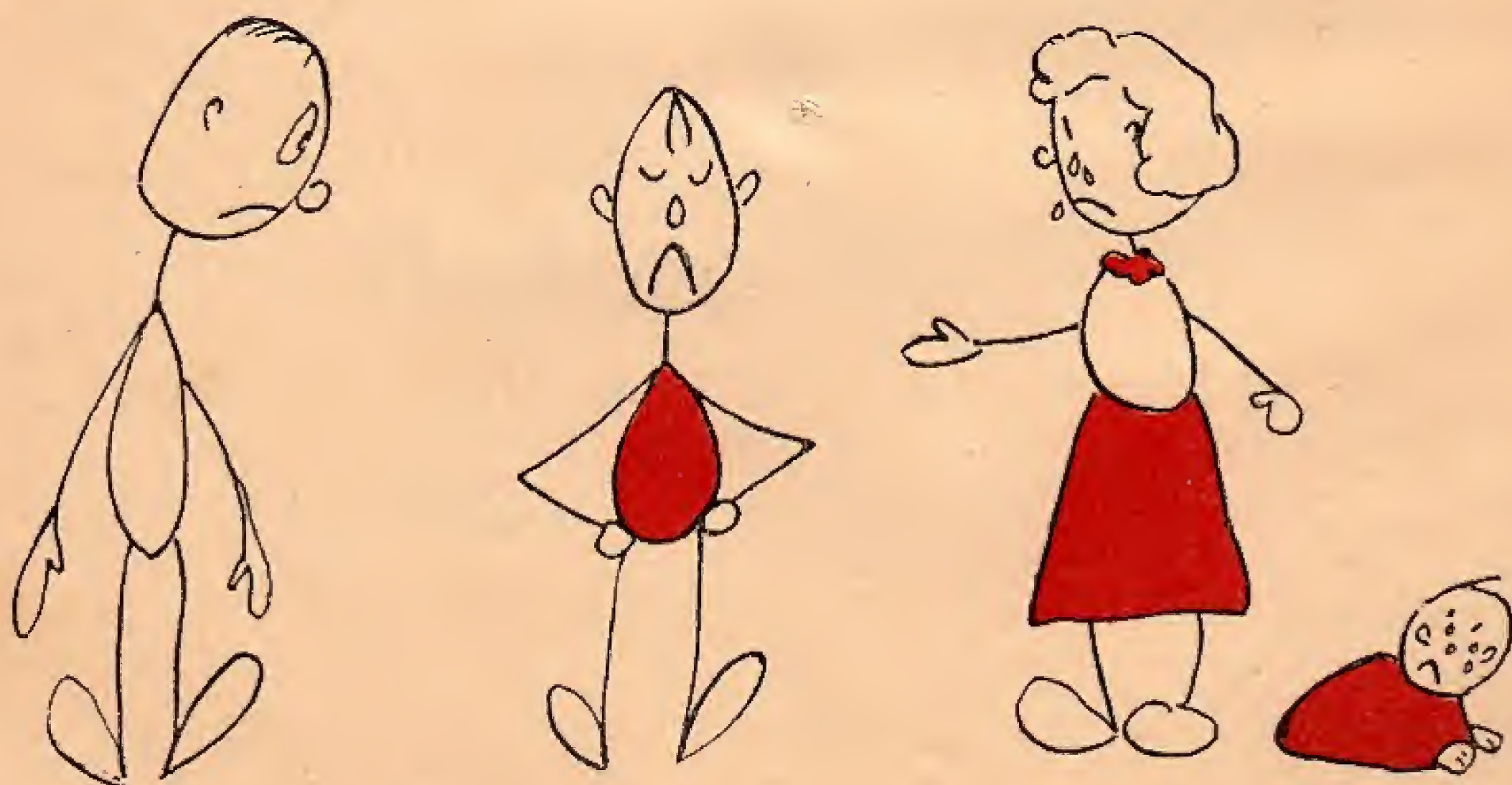
If they can, they make other people do things *their* way and *they* don't care how many others are hurt or made unhappy —just so long as they have things the way they want them.



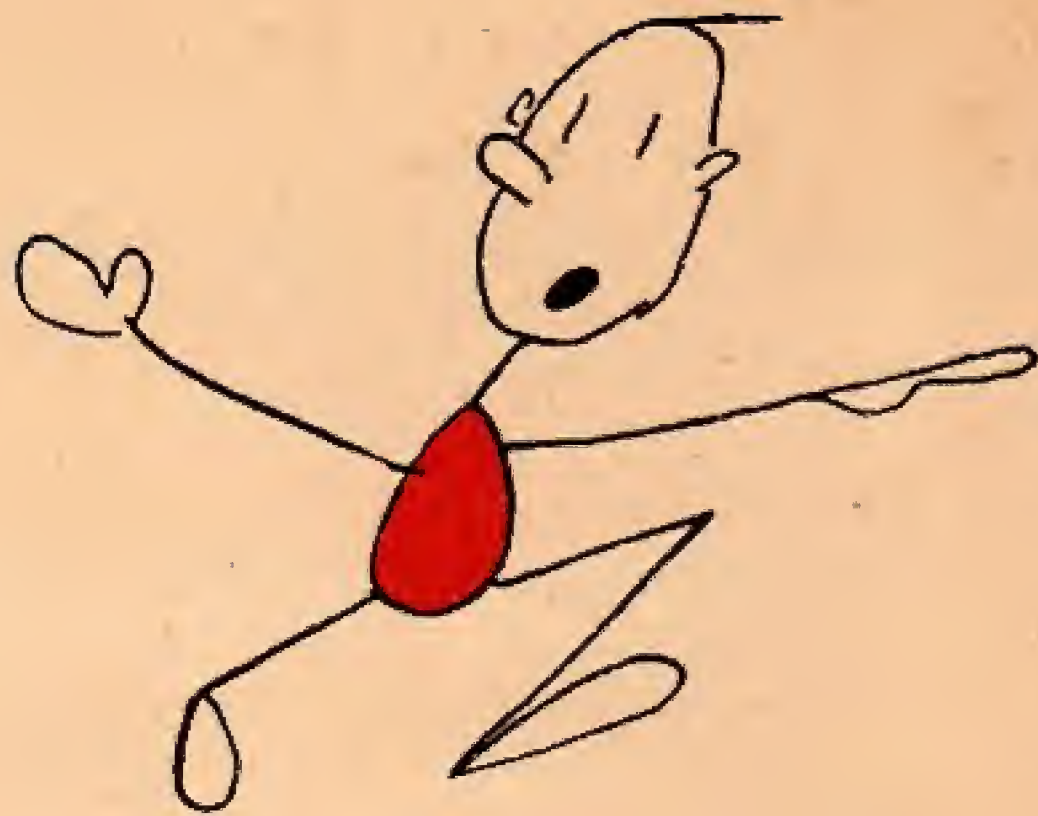




When some people are like that, they may  
not hurt many others, often just their own  
families and a few who know them well.







Others fool enough people sometimes to grow strong and powerful, and they become bad Leaders. Then they make trouble for a lot of people, often for whole countries and every now and then for everybody in the world.



They lead the Makers and Doers into thinking of new things and ways to hurt others instead of helping them.

Then even the good and decent people of the world who don't want to, have to do the same just to save their own lives.







That's when we find ourselves in the same  
fix our ancestors were thousands of years  
ago



when everybody was scared.

All the fine things men and women have  
done to help each other, the great cities we  
have built, our inventions, our medicines,



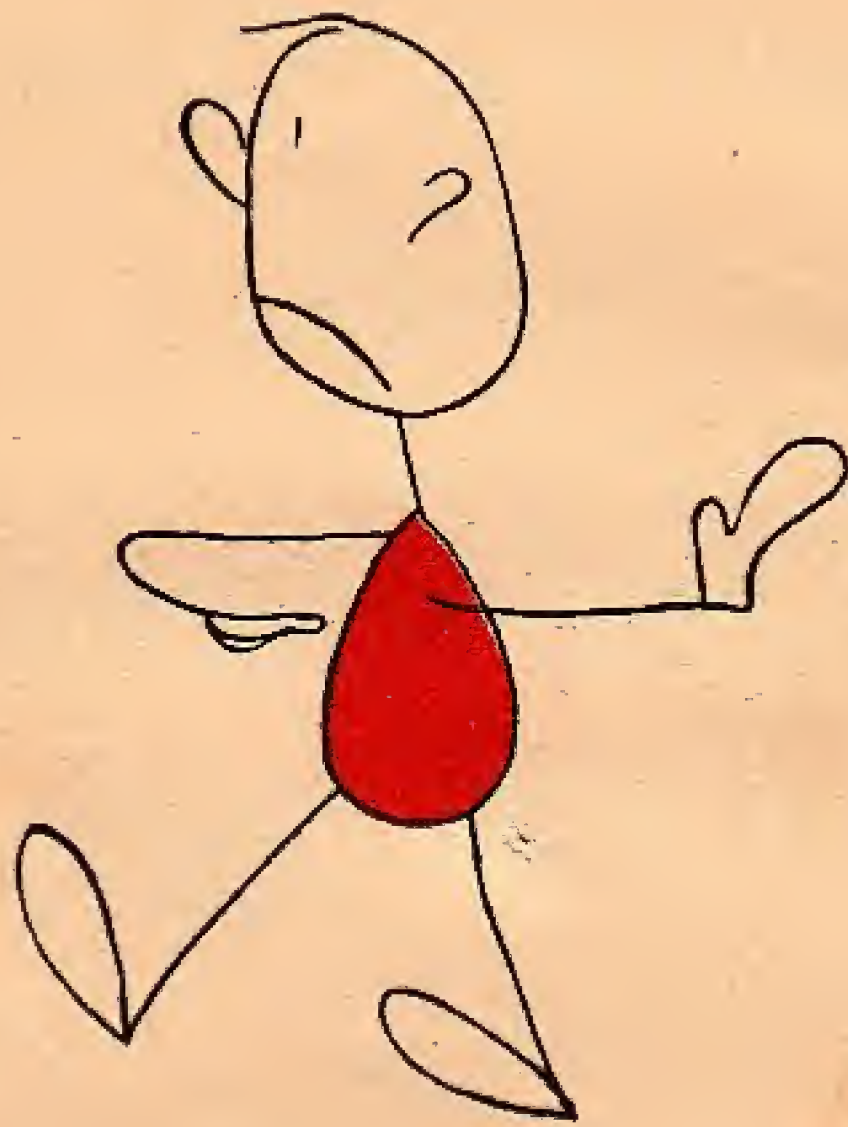
our farms, our schools, our factories, radios,  
trains, motor-cars, telephones, and  
airplanes can't help us to lose this fear that  
brings unhappiness to millions all over the  
world.

We fight wars that most of the people of  
the world don't want to fight.





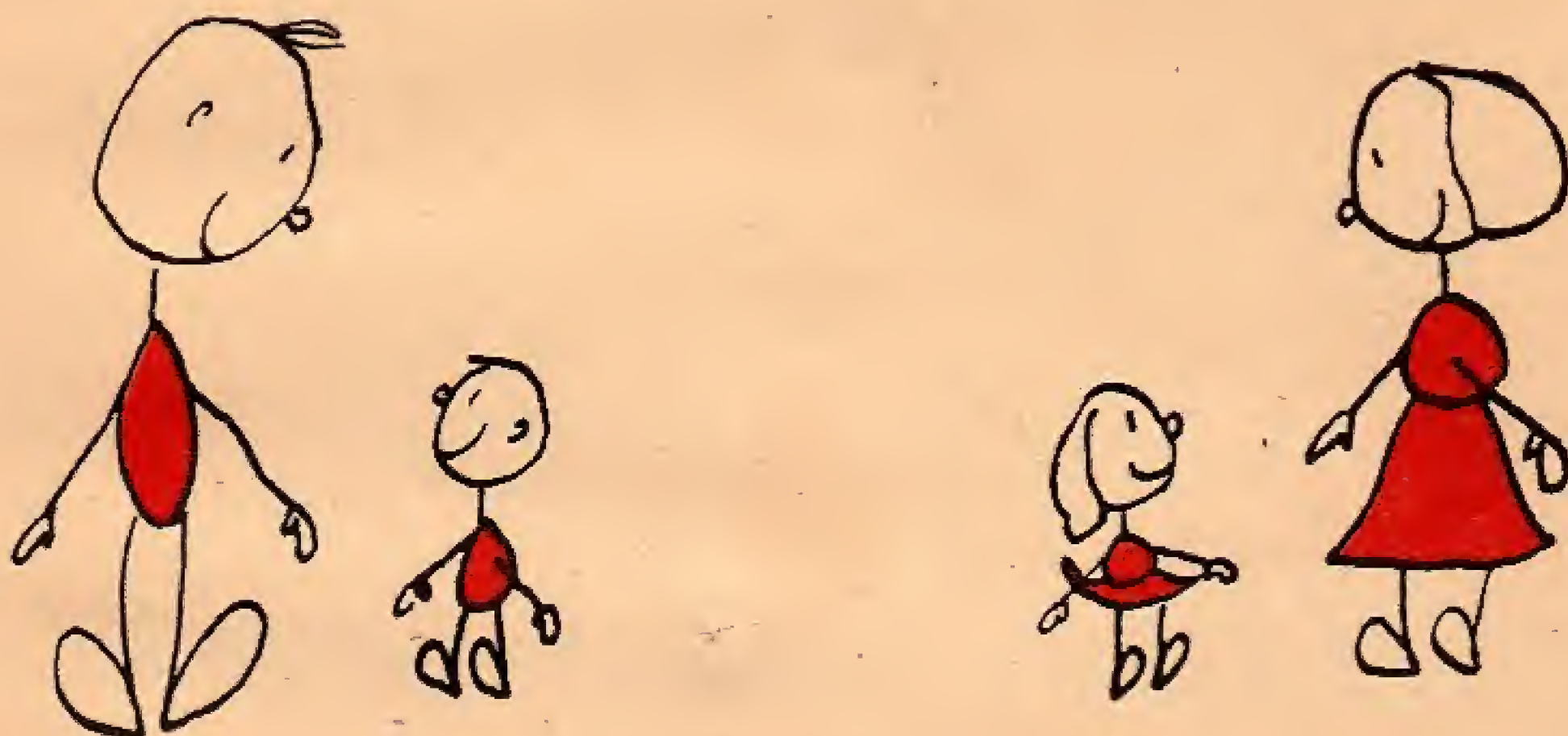
If the people of every country will be very careful about who their leaders are, and if we all see to it that the Selfish Cheaters



never become powerful, then we can live together in a peaceful world.



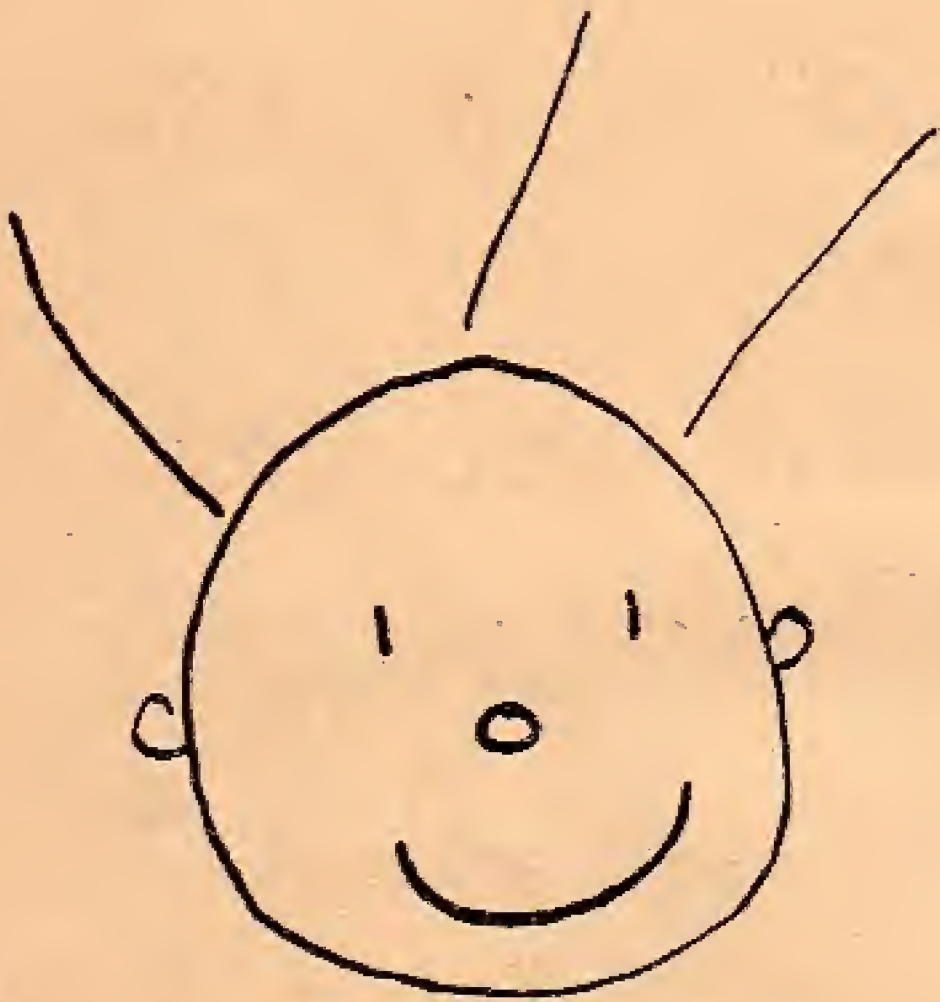
All Thinkers—the Leaders, the Makers and Doers and even the Cheaters are all boys and girls before they are men and women.



What we do and how we Think when we are young is as important as it ever is when we are older.



If we want this world to be a better place,



we are the ones who can make it so.



In all the years that have passed, our  
ancestors have not yet learned to live  
together so that people all over the world  
do not have to be afraid of each other.

People in many countries still live in fear  
that shells and bombs and bullets may drive  
them back again to living in



dark, dank  
caves to save their lives.



It could happen to any of us.





That is still a stupid and a dismal way to live.



Let's be Thinkers all over the world.

Strong, Kind and Unselfish

Thinkers

and

**LET'S  
DO  
BETTER**